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By: Frank L. LolloSigned: Frank L. LolloDate of signature and deposit/transmission: 4/13/2006

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:)
Frank Odenthal et al.) Group Art Unit: 3682
)
Serial No: 10/807,970) Examiner: Krause, Justin Mitchell
)
Filed: 3/24/2004) Attorney Docket: 10541-1994
)
For: Ultrasonic Welded Plastic Retainer) Confirmation No: 4461
To Secure Yoke

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RESPONSE TO ELECTION REQUIREMENT

In response to the Office Action of 3/31/2006, applicants have carefully reviewed the Examiner's comments.

The Examiner indicated that the claims in the application are drawn to the following patentably distinct inventions:

Invention I according to claims 1-11; and

Invention II according to claim 12.

The Examiner required applicants to restrict the application to one of the inventions under 35 U.S.C 121 for prosecution on the merits.

In accordance with the Examiner's requirement, applicants elect Invention I according to claims 1-11. Applicants respectfully traverse the election requirement as the Examiner has not shown or suggested an alternative method that can make the product as claimed.

In addition, the Examiner indicated that the claims in the application are drawn to the following patentably distinct species:

Species 1: Claim 8

Species 2: Claim 9

Species 2: Claim 10

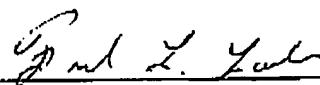
The Examiner required applicants, under 35 U.S.C 121, to restrict the application to a single disclosed species to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner stated currently claims 1-7 and 11 appear to be generic.

In accordance with the Examiner's requirement, application elects to prosecute Species 1 for which Claims 1-8 and 11 are readable thereon.

In view of the above election, applicant believes the application is now in condition for further action on the merits.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 4/13/2006


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